



ParKids Magazine
Fall/Winter 2001



Stuart's Theorem on Fossils

By Stuart Stinson

Trilobites are rare because they go buried so deep in sand because where they stayed was on sea level. Sponges were so common because they are right above trilobites on the chart but neither got eaten because they both were so deep on the chart. But trilobites were deeper and buried further underground. The Earth's crust eroded some and it unburied the sponges and not the trilobites.

ParKids Learn About Fossils





By Mallorie Salazar

Here are the ParKids at Slaughter Canyon discussing about being a rock detective. Greg is telling us about fossils. It was a very interesting lesson. I enjoyed listening to Greg yesterday. There were a couple of shells from the Ancient Ocean.

By Kevin Barnhart

A park ranger named Greg Litten told us that there was an ocean where we were. He told us to draw animals that we think were in the water. After we did that we went on a hike and looked for fossils. I found five fossils but I don't know what they were called. I think it's pretty cool that there were fossils at Slaughter Canyon.

By Brent Padilla

In the picture we were looking for fossils on rocks. We found a bunch of fossils and some were big. Some were little. Stuart found one that is rare and he gets to get his name by the rock he found in the museum. We were at Slaughter Canyon. It was pretty fun over there looking for fossils on the trail.

By Britta Bigej

In the picture it is me, Britta, looking for fossils with a magnifying glass at Slaughter Canyon. Also in the picture is Greg, a geologist and park ranger, telling us if we found a fossil or not. It was fun.

By Brittney Michalski

In this picture Greg Litten is showing us a fossil that he found. He is also teaching us about all the different fossils and some history about Slaughter Canyon. You ask why we like doing this? It's interesting to learn about all the different fossils and learn about Slaughter Canyon when it used to be a reef. I think it's fun and some people should consider doing it.

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All photos taken by Janet Roberson



Chihuahuan Desert

By Bianca Morales

C is for Coyotes
H is for Hot
I is for Indigo
H is for Horizon
U is for Underground
A is for Around a mountain
H is for Horned Lizard
U is for Up in the sky with the Eagles
A is for Antelope
N is for Never Cold

D is for Dogs
E is for Elk
S is for Sand Hill Crane
E is for Energy
R is for Road Runner
T is for Turkey

Chihuahuan Desert

By Maricruz Manriquez

C is for Cactus
H is for Hot
I is for very Interesting wildlife
H is for Homalocephala texensis cactus
U is for Underground homes
A is for different Adaptations
H is for different Homes
U is for Unbelievable habitats
A is for homes that are Alike
N is for the Natural life

D is for the Desert we live in
E is for Excellent adaptations
S is for the Sotol
E is for the Evergreen colors
R is for the jack Rabbit
T is for the desert Turtle



ParKids Learn About Desert Plants

Adaptations of plants

By Raymond Wilkins

You may think plants are not helpful to the environment, but they are. They are very helpful to us and animals. They help us with food, oxygen, and medicine. They stop erosion and make our soil rich and healthy. They help animals with food, air, water, and make them stay healthy.

Now I will tell you about the adaptations. Some plants like the sotol or the juniper or perhaps the ocotillo have flat pointed leaves. Watch out or you will get cut. I hope you've learned some things about plants.

Cactus a Poem

By Brittney Michalski

Stickery Cactus
Sitting on the mountain side
Ouch that Cactus hurt

Cactus

By Jamie Lucas

Cactus
Thorny Hot
Pokes Your Skin
The Roots Absorb Water
Plant

Cactus

by Serita Robinson

Cactus
Prickly Spines
Produces Small Pears
It Has Shallow Roots
Pricklypear



Desert Plant Word Search by Sarah Walker

F	K	C	Q	R	U	A	B	M	E	X	I	C	A	N	B	U	C	K	E	Y	E	T	W	D
T	X	I	G	D	V	N	J	C	H	T	O	R	R	E	Y	Y	U	C	C	A	V	V	H	E
U	V	L	C	Z	V	Y	I	K	C	Z	R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	S	T	W	W	I	C
A	I	A	Y	L	T	A	A	C	L	L	E	C	H	U	G	U	I	L	L	A	E	E	T	F
S	R	N	S	W	A	R	R	J	O	W	L	S	E	Y	X	F	J	A	T	G	S	G	E	H
O	T	T	A	C	Q	R	K	A	T	R	M	Q	P	D	F	F	D	R	R	W	T	W	T	O
A	U	R	P	O	Y	O	E	H	B	L	N	P	C	A	D	K	V	R	E	J	E	E	H	N
P	L	O	K	R	M	W	S	T	A	B	O	R	Z	H	L	Y	H	O	E	I	R	S	O	E
T	D	B	P	N	D	A	E	B	C	P	I	N	O	A	T	S	L	W	T	A	N	T	R	Y
R	L	M	Z	O	U	L	N	C	N	U	I	T	E	O	U	G	G	W	O	R	P	E	N	M
E	C	D	L	Q	I	O	S	A	H	K	P	S	B	B	T	R	V	E	B	C	E	R	A	E
E	A	G	S	H	M	G	C	P	P	I	N	C	T	R	D	T	S	E	A	O	N	N	C	S
Y	L	C	C	E	D	I	Z	M	I	E	N	L	A	E	U	N	L	D	C	R	N	W	A	Q
U	E	H	L	H	X	H	U	O	D	Y	A	A	L	C	E	S	L	U	C	I	Y	A	C	U
C	N	E	M	E	I	P	U	L	V	S	O	I	C	E	T	M	H	P	O	A	R	L	I	I
C	D	R	M	B	W	I	O	U	G	T	M	H	R	E	W	U	Q	R	A	N	O	L	A	T
A	U	R	K	E	J	G	E	N	A	O	X	T	A	Y	A	W	S	S	I	D	Y	F	V	E
M	L	Y	E	A	A	F	I	T	M	H	D	O	N	I	V	A	D	Q	K	E	A	L	A	Q
R	A	S	B	N	D	W	O	A	U	I	Z	W	A	X	U	P	X	Z	S	R	L	O	L	F
S	U	A	Y	X	R	P	H	S	H	O	W	Y	S	E	N	N	A	N	X	M	S	W	E	T
S	Q	G	E	U	R	C	O	C	O	T	I	L	L	O	X	Q	U	K	P	K	R	E	R	E
M	V	E	O	M	O	L	R	C	S	K	U	L	L	C	A	P	N	R	Z	H	P	R	I	O
S	D	F	T	X	C	O	C	R	E	O	S	O	T	E	B	U	S	H	E	D	Y	X	A	O
F	M	J	T	I	N	D	I	A	N	R	I	C	E	G	R	A	S	S	E	Q	M	Y	N	S
S	W	E	E	T	A	C	A	C	I	A	C	A	T	N	I	P	V	Q	T	S	V	L	Y	D

Arrow Weed
Bean
Calendula
Catnip
Chamomile
Cherry Sage
Chile
Cilantro
Claret Cup Cactus
Coriander
Corn
Creosote Bush

Echinacea
Four Wing Saltbush
Golden Seal
Honey Mesquite
Indian Rice Grass
Lechuguilla
Lemon Balm
Mexican Buckeye
Mexican Poppy
Ocotillo
Orchid Tree
Potato

Pumpkin
Rabbit Brush
Rosemary
Showy Senna
Skullcap
Soap Tree Yucca
Squash
Sweet Acacia
Torrey Yucca
Tree Tobacco
Unicorn Root
Valerian

Western Penny
Royal
Western Wallflower
White Thorn Acacia
Yarrow

Caving Quiz: How careful are you?

By Sara Walker, Emily Peterson, and Kristen Daly

1. You're on your way out of the lunchroom, heading into the cave, when you realize you forgot to spit out your gum. You:
 - a. Don't think twice about it.
 - b. hurry to a trash can and spit out your gum.
 - c. drop the gum on the path (no one will know it was yours).
2. You notice a bat hanging in front of you. You:
 - a. jump and yell trying to scare it away.
 - b. keep walking, a little excited.
 - c. zoom in and take a flash picture.
3. You spot a sparkling stalactite hanging above the trail. You:
 - a. grab it, breaking off a free souvenir.
 - b. reach out and touch it quickly, but don't break it.
 - c. look, but don't touch, you don't want to get into trouble.
4. You see some kids throwing pennies in a cave pool. You:
 - a. join them, it looks like fun.
 - b. tell a park ranger.
 - c. watch, but don't tattle.
5. You see a great cave formation a few feet off the cave trail. Your friend says, "You'd look great next to that. I'll take your picture!" You reply:
 - a. "no, we shouldn't go off the trail."
 - b. you say nothing, but walk recklessly towards the formation.
 - c. "sure, Bob," and carefully make your way off the trail towards the formation.

Scoring

1. a) 2 b) 3 c) 1
2. a) 1 b) 3 c) 2
3. a) 1 b) 2 c) 3
4. a) 1 b) 3 c) 2
5. a) 3 b) 1 c) 2

Add up points.

0-7 points: Reckless Wanderer

You do whatever you want, whenever you want. You normally toss the rule book out the window and do your own thing. Maybe it's time to start following the rules.

8-11 points: Spiffy Spelunker

You're usually good at doing what you're told, but occasionally you get off course. Try to stay on track and it will keep you out of trouble.

12-15 points: Cautious Caver

Congratulations! You're a good role model. You are careful to do whatever you can to preserve and conserve. Just make sure to keep it up.

Things you can do to protect Carlsbad Caverns National Park

By Sara Walker

1. Don't litter
2. Stay on the trail
3. Don't touch the formations
4. Don't chew gum, tobacco, etc.
5. Use your common sense and follow the rules

ParKids Learn About Caving

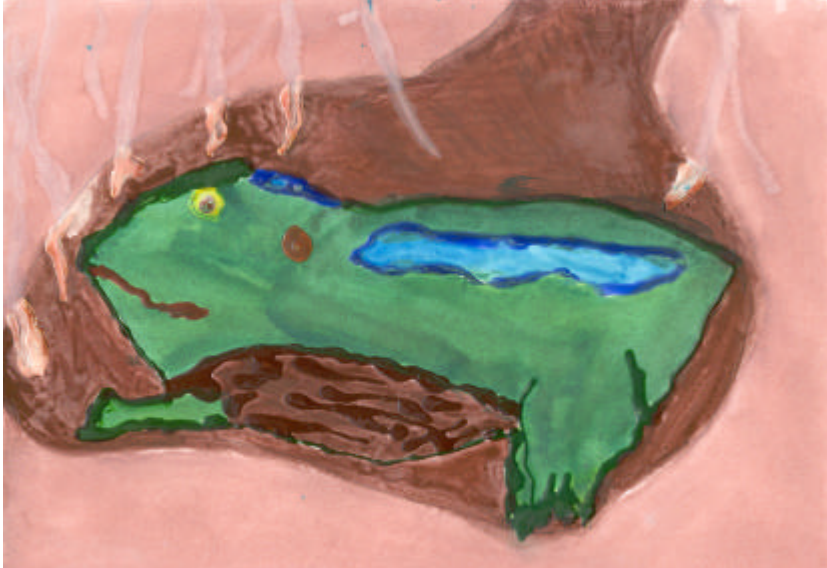
By Kristen Daly

The prussic knot when tied looks difficult but it actually is not. We were taught how to tie this knot by Mr. Bemis who also gave us a demonstration on the different types of rope climbing. This picture shows when I tried to tie a prussic knot. My first attempt: failure, but by the next try, I was able to make a pretty decent knot. One important thing to always remember to do is to "dress" your knots. Not only does it make your knots pretty, it also makes them stronger.

By Shyra Reed

One of the speakers' names was Tom Bemis. He showed us how to climb up a rope three or four ways. He said it looks easy but it's hard. We were in the cave and he showed us to tie a Prussic Knot. It is just like tying a rubber band. In the Carlsbad Caverns almost 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are learning lots of things in ParKids. We have field trips all week. This was our first one of all week.





Rattlesnake

By James Darr

Rattlesnake
Glittering underbelly
Warning things near
Only hunts at night
Reptile

ParKids Learn About Snakes



Rattlesnakes

By Bradley Frye

Have you ever wondered what a rattlesnake's rattler is made out of? How they can catch their prey at night? Well, if you read this you will find the answer to both of these questions.

First of all, a rattlesnake's rattler is made out of keratin. When a rattlesnake rattles its tail the noise is actually made because of the individual pieces hitting against each other. Every

time a rattlesnake sheds its skin a new, dark line of the rattle appears.

Rattlesnakes can see heat images in the night which helps them find and catch their prey. They can detect any change in temperature.

They also smell with their tongue. They can fit a whole rabbit in their mouth, without chewing it up first, by unlocking their jaw.

This week I have learned a lot about deserts, caves, and animals. I hope that you will consider joining the ParKids.



What I learned this week

By Maricruz Manriquez

During this week I experienced a lot of neat stuff. I had a lot of fun going to different places. We went to lots of places. I had fun going to Sitting Bull Falls. At Sitting Bull Falls we cleaned a trail, trail number 68E. We adopted the trail. The trail is now the ParKids trail. I had fun helping out this whole week. I even found out things I did not know. I really like ParKids.

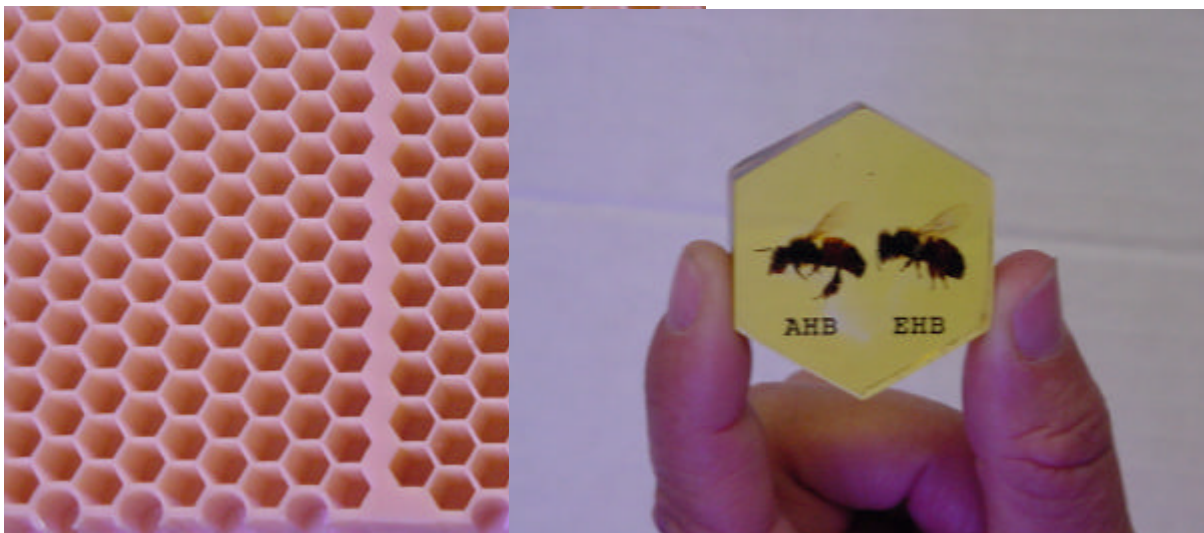
Clean those Trails

By Brock Bigej

Today we went to Sitting Bull Falls to do trail maintenance. We wore hard hats, gloves, and safety glasses. Ernie Garcia gave us the definitions of words like Hold, Moving, Bump up, and Bump back. I got to use a tool called a McLeod; it's similar to a rake. Our job was to move rocks off the trail so people don't trip on them. We didn't get the whole trail cleaned because it started to pour. So we headed back to the vehicles. Doing trail maintenance was a lot of fun.

***ParKids
Learn
About
Trail
Maintenance***

ParKids Learn About Africanized Bees



Africanized Bees

By Dylan Lynn

The Africanized Bee is a feral honey bee. They originally came from Africa and mixed with domesticated European Honey Bees in the United States. They are more aggressive than domesticated honey bees. When a honey bee stings it gives out an odor signaling the hive to send reinforcements. They send about 50 worker bees. The Africanized Bee sends 1,000 reinforcements. It is very difficult to tell the difference between the Africanized Bee and the Honey Bee. It takes special microscopes and scientists to do this.

The stingers of Honey Bees are hollow and hooked on the end. Whenever they sting their insides come out. The honey bee will die right after the sting. Worker bees are all females. Worker bees produce the honey. The worker bees suck the nectar through their proboscis. They store the nectar in their stomach and return to the hive to regurgitate the nectar into cones making the honey.

The queen lays eggs all day and eats the honey the worker bees make. She lays more than one hundred eggs a day. The queen bee can sting more than once. Without the queen bee the other bees can not survive. Without new eggs laid the colony would soon die out.

How to protect yourself from African and European Bees

By Jeremy Ann Morgan

Run with your neck and face covered with your shirt. You can also put the scent of lemon on your hat, shoe, or shirt and throw it and run the opposite direction. It will give you about 15 to 20 minutes to run. That's what you do to protect yourself from African and European Bees.



By Jessica Perry

I felt so hot. I was thirsty but had no water. I saw all sorts of plants. I smelled coyote melon which didn't smell good. There were bees on people's hats.

By Brent Padilla

In this picture Alexis is talking to us about tools that are used in fires. Some of the tools were neat. That was my favorite part of the day, too. There was a bunch of stuff they use in fires and all of it is very heavy put together.

Cicadas

By Chance Cosgray

Cicadas are small insects sometimes called locusts. Cicadas are black insects with green markings. The cicada has two sets of wings. There are the front pair and the back pair. The back wings are longer than the front. The male cicadas gather in trees and sing. They sing with a sound box located underneath the abdomen.

Lizards

By Nick Wilson

Lizards are most active when the weather is warm. They need the heat because they don't make their own body heat. Lizards have scaly skin so they won't dry out in the sun. There are thousands of types of lizards in the world. The largest is a Komodo dragon. The smallest is a gecko. Some lizards live in the ground; others live in trees and shrubs. Some lizards live for more than ten years; others live for only one year. Most lizards eat insects. Some lizards lay eggs; others give birth to live young (after holding eggs in belly). Lizards shed their skin when it becomes too small for their growing bodies.

My Journey on the Gurney with a Wheel

By Serita Robinson

I got to ride on the gurney with a wheel. It was both fun and scary. Laura Denny was showing us how it worked in the first aid room at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. She needed a volunteer. Everyone wanted to be her volunteer, especially me. Then she picked me. The next thing I knew everyone was lifting down the part where your feet sat to let me get in. I got in, they strapped me in, and lifted me up. They started to wheel me out. The door to the first aid room was hard to get out of. We had to have Laura pull the front, so everyone pushed from behind and peeled off towards the front. As they pushed me around, turned me, and pulled me around, it seemed like my right side was falling over, because that side kept tipping down. Finally, after ten minutes, we were outside at Laura's patrol car. They lifted it down, and unstrapped me, and then I got off. That's my story of how I got to ride on the gurney with a wheel.

